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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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September 16, 2011

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: CC Docket No. 96-45, Certification Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §54.314**

Dear Secretary Dortch:

Pursuant to the requirements of 47 C.F.R. §54.314, the Public Service Commission of Maryland ("Maryland PSC") hereby certifies to the Federal Communications Commission that Armstrong Telephone Company of Maryland ("Armstrong") is eligible to receive federal high-cost support for the period commencing January 1, 2012 and ending December 31, 2012, and that Armstrong will utilize the federal high-cost support for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

In support of the foregoing certification, enclosed is an Affidavit executed by Armstrong's President certifying that Armstrong will only utilize the federal high-cost support received in the calendar year 2012 for the purposes intended under Section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Finally, we ask that you date stamp the enclosed extra copy of this filing and return it to the Maryland PSC in the accompanying stamped, self-addressed envelope.

By Direction of the Commission,

David J. Collins  
Executive Secretary

Enclosures

cc: James D. Mitchell, President, Armstrong Telephone Company of Maryland  
Ms. Karen Majcher  
Vice President High Cost and Low Income Division  
Universal Service Administrative Company  
2000 L Street, NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20036

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## AFFIDAVIT

Pursuant to the requirements of 47 C.F.R. Section §54.314, Armstrong Telephone Company, a Maryland corporation ("Armstrong" or "Company") hereby certifies that all federal Universal Service high cost support funds flowing to the Company, a rural local exchange carrier, will only be utilized in the year 2012 for the purposes intended under Section 254(e) of the Communications Act of 1996 ("Act").

Specifically, Armstrong certifies that it will utilize its universal service support only for the provision, maintenance, and/or upgrading of facilities and service for which the support is intended.

In support of this certification, Armstrong represents the following:

- (1) Armstrong has submitted the attached letter (the "Letter") which provides the factual and public policy foundation for this affidavit;
- (2) Armstrong provides the supported services required by U.S.C. § 214(e) of the Act;
- (3) Armstrong advertises the availability of supported services and the charges for them as required by U.S.C. § 214(e) of the Act; and
- (4) Funds received by Armstrong from the federal high-cost universal service support fund will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of the facilities and services for which the support is intended.

Based upon the information provided herein and in the Letter, Armstrong certifies that it utilizes its federal universal service support for the purposes intended under Section 254(e) of the Act.

By James D. Mitchell  
James D. Mitchell  
Vice-President

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 26<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2011.

Kelly D. Chapman  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

